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Contribution from the Bureau of Biological Survey,  
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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA ON THE ALASKA GAME LAW, 1921.

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TERRITORY OF ALASKA,  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
*Juneau, November 30, 1921.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my first annual report on the administration of the Alaska game law (act approved May 11, 1908, as subsequently amended) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921.

Respectfully,

SCOTT C. BONE, *Governor.*

Hon. HENRY CANTWELL WALLACE,  
*Secretary of Agriculture.*

#### INTRODUCTION.

Animal life still abounds in Alaska. It is not being ruthlessly exterminated. While some varieties of game apparently are showing a marked decrease, others seem to be steadily increasing if not multiplying rapidly. Continued protection and conservation, with more adequate means of law enforcement, are of the utmost importance.

Whatever the provisions of the law, literal enforcement is quite impossible. This fact becomes apparent when one keeps in mind the colossal size of the Territory, with a landed area embracing some 600,000 square miles and a coast line, including indentations, 30,000 miles in length. To patrol the whole of such a domain, vast sections of it uninhabited and inaccessible, is beyond the possibility of human achievement.

Eleven game wardens and a few Biological Survey agents, however alert and vigilant, obviously can not enforce to the letter the existing game laws, nor any revised law. With the force quadrupled and an adequate fund provided for its maintenance, complete supervision and enforcement would still continue to be most difficult. The opening up of the Territory through the construction of the Government railroad from coast to interior and the building of roads and trails will materially lessen the difficulties.

In the mountain fastnesses and other remote regions people are wisely allowed to kill game for human sustenance, and no revision of the code should affect this phase of the situation. But the abuse of this privilege for profit, which sometimes occurs, should be sternly punished.

Statistics as to animal life in Alaska are unreliable; at very best they are approximate.

Whether the bear population, brown, black, grizzly, and polar, is 10,000 or 30,000, nobody knows. The game warden who hazards the opinion that there are as many bears in the Territory as there are human beings may be right or may be wrong. An enumeration of bears is beyond attainment. Likewise this is true of the caribou and the moose. Figures presented as to animal life, save reindeer, are guesswork necessarily.

Broadly speaking, it is within reason to say that the bears, all varieties, the caribou, and the moose in Alaska, whatever the number in the aggregate, although diminished in certain sections, have not as a whole decreased largely in recent years. At any rate, this is the consensus of opinion of game wardens, prospectors, and outdoor men generally.

Mountain sheep and mountain goats, equally impossible of enumeration, are apparently also holding their own in number. Deer are less plentiful.

Migratory cannery men are accused of slaughtering deer prodigally and carrying winter supplies of such meat to the States. Whether a fact or not, this charge is accepted. The lack of a patrol service lends plausibility to it. It is in keeping with the easy traffic in liquor through Alaskan and adjacent waters.

Whether beavers and other fur-bearing animals are increasing or decreasing is a moot question. A report that they are continually

being trapped in many localities, and thus all but exterminated, is offset by an equally credible report that in other sections they are multiplying in such numbers as to dam up the streams and do vast damage. Appraising this conflicting testimony at its probable worth, it may be safe to say that the beaver, like the larger animals, still abounds in numbers.

With the wholly inadequate, not to say absurd, facilities provided for the enforcement of the game law and the preservation of wild life, it is a pleasure to bear testimony to the excellent work of the small corps of game wardens and Biological Survey agents who, cooperating to the fullest extent possible in a country of such colossal size as to keep them widely separated, are doing their duty faithfully and well. In the main, they take their work seriously and their service is valuable.

Educationally, these men are doing much in impressing upon people the necessity of conserving game for their own welfare. One of the wardens in the first division, a lover of wild life and student of Alaskan conditions, has prepared a set of questionnaires on animals and birds, to be used in the schools. These have been adopted and will come into general use. In thus stimulating interest in and promoting knowledge of game on the part of teachers and pupils the work of conserving bird and animal life will be materially aided. This same game warden has enlisted the cooperation and aid of intelligent natives in his jurisdiction, who will also be a potent influence for good.

If the present wholly inadequate system of supervision and enforcement is to continue, and under Federal control, it seems advisable to create a chief game warden of the Biological Survey, whose duty it would be to serve in the field, visiting the various sections of the Territory, and directing and supervising the work of the small corps of game wardens. Guidance is required and closer coordination. The governor, under the present system, can only exercise care in the selection of game wardens and exact monthly reports and proper accounting. Supervision at his hands is impossible.

#### **TERRITORIAL BOUNTIES.**

The Legislature of Alaska has enacted two laws providing bounties—one of \$15 for each wolf and the other of 50 cents for each eagle killed. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, bounties were paid on 233 wolves, \$3,495; and on 2,288 eagles, \$1,144.

Wolves and wolverenes are ruthless destroyers of game and fur animals. Wolves follow the caribou in the interior and attack the calves and wounded animals. Predatory and destructive by instinct, they are a menace to game life. The Territory has shown liberality in providing a bounty on wolves and this should be sup-



plemented by the Federal Government in aid of the necessary extermination. The Territorial bounty on eagles is serving a good purpose.

### THE BEARS.

Protection of the brown bear in Alaska—a protection, manifestly, that does not protect—continues to be derided and tends, naturally, to bring the game laws into disrepute. In popular appraisement the brown bear is a predatory beast and, of the animal kingdom, an arch foe of mankind. The year just ended has produced no additional evidence of his ferocity in the maiming or killing of human beings, because there have been fewer prospectors in the hills and mountains; but his bad reputation is so well established that he is held in mortal dread. To see him is to take flight or to give battle. Attacked, he fights; unattacked, he is often the aggressor.

Since the protection of the brown bear is one that does not protect and since his status of *persona non grata* is now clearly unchangeable, the meaningless legal form of protection extended may well be withdrawn, especially as there is no imminent danger of the extermination of his species.

The bears of other hues, the black, grizzly, and polar, are in better favor. As between the brown and the black bears, if protection is to be accorded, the black bear is universally believed to be entitled to the greater consideration. That the brown and black bears are still plentiful is the consensus of opinion of game wardens and mining men.

### CARIBOU AND MOOSE.

Reports from game wardens in the northern part of the Territory and the interior agree that the caribou is not decreasing in numbers, if, indeed, it is not multiplying rapidly. The runs this current year began apparently earlier than usual and a moving mass of many thousands was in evidence. Fragmentary reports indicate that there were more calves than usual. Owing to the early runs, the natives and others did not secure, it is said, a requisite winter supply of meat.

It appears likewise true that moose on the Kenai Peninsula are increasing in numbers, whereas in other districts there is a seeming diminution. The number killed during the year appears to have been about normal.

### DEER, MOUNTAIN SHEEP, AND MOUNTAIN GOATS.

Deer, as already indicated, seem less plentiful, although it is claimed by some keen observers that there is a steady increase in southeastern Alaska. On the islands of the Alexander Archipelago wolves and bears are still reported to be doing great damage to the deer herd.

Mountain sheep are reported in the usual, if not unusual, numbers in most of the mountain districts on the Kenai Peninsula.

Mountain goats show no signs of decrease. They are not often pursued by hunters. That many kids are killed by eagles is to be believed.

#### FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

Game wardens in the interior report that, on account of the low prices of furs, there has been less trapping than usual. Minks, martens, and beavers are reported increasing. Lynxes, which disappeared for a few years, are returning with small game.

Sea otters are reported to be multiplying in numbers, especially in the vicinity of Hinchinbrook and Montague Islands, thanks to the stringent governmental regulations enforced in recent years.

Fox farms, especially in southeastern Alaska, are said to be operating more profitably and the industry is developing.

#### BIRDS—MIGRATORY AND NONMIGRATORY.

Game birds of all kinds have been abundantly in evidence during the season. Ducks and geese and spruce hens are increasing.

Ptarmigan and grouse, according to uniform reports, have been more plentiful during the year than for many years heretofore. Ptarmigan have returned in overwhelming numbers.

# APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—*Hunting licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921.*

No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.	No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.
90	July 14, 1920	United States.....	\$50	4	Aug. 24, 1920	United States.....	\$50
91	July —, 1920	do.....	50	5	Sept. 5, 1920	do.....	50
92	July 14, 1920	do.....	50	6	Sept. 13, 1920	do.....	50
93	do.....	do.....	50	7	Apr. 1, 1921	do.....	50
94	July 27, 1920	do.....	50	8	Apr. 28, 1921	do.....	50
95	do.....	do.....	50	9	do.....	do.....	50
96	do.....	do.....	50	10	May 3, 1921	do.....	50
97	Aug. 2, 1920	do.....	50	11	do.....	Great Britain.....	100
98	do.....	do.....	50	12	May 4, 1921	United States.....	50
99	do.....	do.....	50	13	June 4, 1921	do.....	50
100	Canceled.....			14	June 18, 1921	do.....	50
1	Aug. 24, 1920	United States.....	50				
2	do.....	do.....	50			Total.....	1,250
3	do.....	do.....	50				

TABLE II.—*Special moose-shipping licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921.*

No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.	No.	Date issued.	Citizen of—	Fee.
23	Sept. 24, 1920	United States.....	\$150	29	Oct. 29, 1920	United States.....	\$150
24	do.....	do.....	150	30	do.....	do.....	150
25	do.....	do.....	150	31	do.....	do.....	150
26	Sept. 29, 1920	do.....	150	32	do.....	do.....	150
27	Oct. 16, 1920	do.....	150			Total.....	1,500
28	do.....	do.....	150				

TABLE III.—*General game-shipping licenses issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921.*

No.	Date issued.	Game or trophy.	Fee.	No.	Date issued.	Game or trophy.	Fee.
244	July 6, 1920	1 brown bear skin.....	\$5	273	Oct. 11, 1920	1 pair moose horns.....	\$40
245	do.....	do.....	5	274	do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	5
246	July 8, 1920	1 moose (killed north 62°)	5	275	do.....	do.....	5
		2 caribou heads.....	40	276	Oct. 26, 1920	1 caribou head.....	10
		2 brown bear skins.....	5	277	Nov. 4, 1920	1 brown bear skin.....	5
		2 mountain sheep.....	5	278	Nov. 8, 1920	do.....	5
247	do.....	1 moose.....	280	279	Nov. 12, 1920	do.....	5
		2 caribou heads.....	40	280	Nov. 15, 1920	1 mountain sheep head.....	10
		2 mountain sheep.....	5	281	Nov. 17, 1920	do.....	5
		2 brown bear skins.....	5	282	Nov. 29, 1920	1 mountain goat head..	5
248	July 11, 1920	1 brown bear skin.....	5	283	do.....	1 grizzly bear skin.....	5
249	July 26, 1920	do.....	5	284	do.....	do.....	5
250	July 27, 1920	do.....	5	285	Dec. 10, 1920	1 mountain goat hide..	5
251	do.....	do.....	5	286	Jan. 15, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	5
252	Aug. 2, 1920	do.....	5	287	Jan. 26, 1921	1 grizzly bear skin.....	5
253	do.....	do.....	5	288	Jan. 27, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	5
254	do.....	do.....	5	289	Feb. 12, 1921	1 grizzly bear skin.....	5
255	Aug. 3, 1920	do.....	5	290	Feb. —, 1921	do.....	5
256	Aug. 7, 1920	do.....	5	291	Feb. 17, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	5
257	do.....	do.....	5	292	Feb. 23, 1921	do.....	5
258	Aug. 26, 1920	do.....	5	293	Mar. 3, 1921	do.....	5
259	Sept. 1, 1920	do.....	5	294	Mar. 28, 1921	do.....	5
260	Sept. 6, 1920	do.....	5	295	Mar. 31, 1921	do.....	5
261	Sept. 9, 1920	1 mountain goat.....	5	296	Apr. 7, 1921	1 mountain-goat head..	5
262	do.....	1 mountain sheep.....	10	297	do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	5
263	Sept. 18, 1920	do.....	10	298	do.....	1 mountain sheep head..	10
264	do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	5	299	Apr. 20, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	5
265	do.....	1 mountain sheep.....	10	300	Apr. 23, 1921	1 grizzly bear skin.....	5
266	Sept. 21, 1920	1 caribou head.....	10	301	do.....	do.....	5
267	do.....	1 mountain sheep.....	10	302	June 1, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	5
268	do.....	do.....	10	303	June 7, 1921	do.....	5
269	Sept. 23, 1920	1 brown bear skin.....	5	304	June 27, 1921	1 grizzly bear skin.....	5
270	Sept. 29, 1920	do.....	5	305	June —, 1921	1 brown bear skin.....	5
271	Oct. 8, 1920	do.....	5			Total.....	460
272	do.....	do.....	5				



TABLE IV.—*Game or trophies shipped from Alaska for private use during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921.*

No.	Date of shipment.	Kind and number of game or trophies.	Residence of shipper.
HUNTING LICENSES.			
68	July 15, 1920	2 brown bear skins and skulls.....	United States.
69	}...do.....	...do.....	Do.
70		...do.....	Do.
75	...do.....	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
72	July 27, 1920	1 mountain goat hide.....	Do.
13	Aug. 4, 1920	1 caribou head.....	Do.
72	Aug. 3, 1920	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
72	Aug. 31, 1920	1 caribou head.....	Do.
	Sept. 24, 1920	3 grizzly bear skins.....	Do.
98	}Sept. 30, 1920	3 moose heads, 6 sheep heads.....	Do.
99		...do.....	Do.
4	...do.....	3 mountain sheep heads.....	Do.
84	}Oct. 5, 1920	2 crates animal heads.....	Do.
85		...do.....	Do.
67	Oct. 8, 1920	1 mountain goat.....	Do.
	Oct. 20, 1920	2 caribou skins.....	Do.
72	Oct. 21, 1920	1 deerskin parka.....	Do.
6	Oct. 28, 1920	2 moose heads, 2 mountain sheep heads.....	Do.
1	...do.....	1 moose head, 3 mountain sheep heads and hides.....	Do.
5	...do.....	2 moose heads, 2 brown bear skins and skulls.....	Do.
72	...do.....	1 caribou head.....	Do.
8	June 17, 1921	3 brown bear skins.....	Do.
10	...do.....	2 brown bear skins.....	Do.
SPECIAL MOOSE-SHIPING LICENSES.			
26	Oct. 8, 1920	1 moose head and cape.....	United States.
27	}Oct. 28, 1920	{...do.....	Do.
28		{...do.....	Do.
GENERAL GAME-SHIPING LICENSES.			
244	July 7, 1920	1 brown bear.....	United States.
232	Aug. 4, 1920	1 caribou head.....	Do.
254	Aug. 11, 1920	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
253	...do.....	...do.....	Do.
252	...do.....	1 brown bear.....	Do.
249	Aug. 19, 1920	...do.....	Do.
243	Sept. 4, 1920	...do.....	Do.
245	Sept. 7, 1920	...do.....	Do.
263	Sept. 18, 1920	1 mountain sheep.....	Do.
269	Sept. 30, 1920	1 brown bear skin.....	Do.
262	Oct. 5, 1920	1 mountain sheep head.....	Do.
	Oct. 20, 1920	1 live deer.....	Do.
280	Nov. 28, 1920	1 mountain sheep head.....	Do.
285	Dec. 19, 1920	1 mountain goat hide.....	Do.
292	Mar. 3, 1921	1 brown bear.....	Do.
293	Mar. 30, 1921	...do.....	Do.
298	Apr. 25, 1921	1 sheep head.....	Do.

<sup>1</sup> Trophies shipped as baggage or household goods not included.

W. H. W.



